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COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS ACTING AS
PREPARATORY BODY FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO THE
FIGHT AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION,
SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION
OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC
SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES
First session
Vienna, 26-27 March 1997
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

PREPARATIONS FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONSIDER THE FIGHT AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES AND TO PROPOSE NEW STRATEGIES, METHODS, PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES AND SPECIFIC MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

Procedural issues to be considered in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly

Report of the Executive Director

*E/CN.7/1997/PC.1.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 51/64, section IV, decided to convene a special session in order to consider the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities and to propose new strategies, methods, practical activities and specific measures to strengthen international cooperation in addressing the problem of illicit drugs.

2. In the same section of its resolution 51/64, the General Assembly decided that the special session should be held for three days in June 1998, immediately after the necessary preparatory work had been done to ensure its success and 10 years after the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.[1] The Assembly also decided that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should act as the preparatory body for the special session and that the deliberations of the preparatory body should be open-ended, allowing for full participation of all States members of the United Nations and of specialized agencies and observers, in accordance with established practice.

I. ISSUES RELATING TO THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON WHICH THE PREPARATORY BODY MIGHT MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE ASSEMBLY

A. Draft provisional agenda

3. The preparatory body should make recommendations on the draft provisional agenda for the special session of the General Assembly. Elements that could be included in the draft provisional agenda for the special session, in accordance with the objectives outlined in Assembly resolution 51/64, section IV, and with established practice, are contained in annex I.

B. Title of the special session

4. The preparatory body may wish to recommend a title for the special session. The draft title currently being used, "special session of the General Assembly devoted to the fight against illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities", derives from Assembly resolution 51/64, section IV.

C. Date and duration

5. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 51/64, section IV, the special session will be held for three days in June 1998. The preparatory body may wish to recommend specific dates in June 1998, bearing in mind the availability of conference and interpretation facilities at Headquarters.

D. President

6. The Preparatory Committee of the Whole for the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly recommended that that session should take place under the presidency of the President of the forty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly. The preparatory body for the upcoming special session may wish to recommend that that special session should take place under the presidency of the President of the fifty-second regular session of the General Assembly.

E. Vice-presidents

7. Following the precedent of the seventeenth special session, the preparatory body may wish to recommend that the vice-presidents of the upcoming special session should be the same as those of the fifty-second regular session of the General Assembly, on the understanding that the regional groups may make substitutions of the vice-presidents allocated to each group.

F. Ad hoc committee

8. The preparatory body may wish to recommend to the General Assembly that it should establish an ad hoc committee of the special session. Such a committee was established for the seventeenth special session. At that special session the Chairman, the Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur of the Preparatory Committee served in the same capacities in the ad hoc committee. Should the preparatory body decide to recommend the establishment of an ad hoc committee of the upcoming special session, the same officers of the preparatory body could be officers of the ad hoc committee. In addition, the preparatory body may wish to recommend allocating to the ad hoc committee some items of the provisional agenda for the special session.

G. Credentials Committee

9. Following the practice of the preparatory committee for the seventeenth special session, the preparatory body for the upcoming special session may wish to recommend to the General Assembly that the Credentials Committee of the special session should have the same membership as the Credentials Committee of the fifty-second regular session of the General Assembly.

H. General Committee

10. The preparatory body may wish to recommend that, following established practice, the General Committee of the special session should consist of the President of the special session of the General Assembly and the 21 vice-presidents and the chairmen of the seven Main Committees of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, on the understanding that they may be substituted by members of their delegations or members of delegations of States belonging to the same regional group and of the chairman of the ad hoc committee of the special session, if such a committee is established.

I. Participation of non-governmental organizations

11. In its resolution 51/64, section IV, the General Assembly recognized the need for the active involvement of non-governmental organizations in preparations for the special session, as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements for their contribution during the special session. The preparatory body may wish to defer consideration of this matter to enable it to take advantage of any arrangements made for the participation of non-governmental organizations in the context of the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly to review the implementation of Agenda 21,[2] adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992.

12. Following the precedent of the seventeen special session, the preparatory body may wish to recommend that non-governmental organizations should designate one representative who would present a statement on behalf of all interested non-governmental organizations in the ad hoc committee, should such a committee be established, and that the duration of the presentation should not exceed 10 minutes.

J. Rules of procedure

13. Following established practice, the preparatory body may wish to recommend that the rules of procedure of the General Assembly should apply at the special session.

II. DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SECOND SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY BODY

14. The preparatory body may also wish to consider the draft provisional agenda for its second session. The following elements could be considered for inclusion in the draft provisional agenda:

Draft provisional agenda for the second session of the preparatory body

1. Adoption of the agenda and organizational matters.

2. Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly to consider the fight against the illicit production, sale , demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and

related activities and to propose new strategies, methods, practical activities and specific measures to strengthen international cooperation in addressing the problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

3. Adoption of the report of the preparatory body on its first and second sessions.

Notes

[1]*Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November-20 December 1988*, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).

[2]*Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

Annex

ELEMENTS FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN THE DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*Note*: Specific items are to be determined by the preparatory body for the special session.]

1. Opening of the special session.

2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation.

3. Credentials of representatives to the special session of the General Assembly:

   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.

4. Election of the President.

5. Report of the preparatory body for the special session.

6. Organization of the special session.

7. Adoption of the agenda.

8. General debate.

9. Review of the international drug control instruments:

   (a) Functioning of the international drug control treaties;

   (b) Review of General Assembly resolution S-17/2, adopted by the Assembly at its seventeenth special session, in particular progress made in implementing the Global Programme of Action annexed thereto.

10. Measures to strengthen international cooperation in drug control, in particular:

    (a) Prevention of diversion of chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs;

    (b) Strengthening measures against the abuse of and trafficking in stimulants;

    (c) Reduction of the illicit demand for drugs;

    (d) Prevention of and action against money-laundering;

    (e) Illicit crops eradication and alternative development;

    (f) Judicial cooperation;

    (g) Coordination in the fight against drug trafficking and related organized crime, against terrorist groups engaged in drug trafficking and against illicit arms trade.

11. Review of the international drug control regime: the role of the United Nations in drug control.

12. Views and matters pertaining to the special session, transmitted by specialized agencies and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system.

13. Adoption of the final documents of the special session:

    (a) Political declaration and revised Global Programme of Action;

    (b) Declaration on the guiding principles for the reduction of illicit drug demand.

14. Follow-up measures for the implementation of the final documents adopted by the special session.